

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

The American public has not been well served by the past repeal of the "fairness doctrine." The media has a strong influence on public opinion, and without regulation to insure diversity in media ownership, and balance of opinions, the public will only hear those voices and opinions favored by advertisers and conglomerate heads. Recent studies show that most Americans do rely primarily on television for their news, not the internet and other outlets. The media plays a critical role in protecting the public interest, and that role is necessarily compromised when the media itself becomes a power broker. I urge commissioners to tighten, not relax, current standards; and to restrict the growth of media monopolies in both local and national markets.